Smuggling of cattle

3239. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of cattle mostly cows, are being smuggled to Bangladesh each day generally at midnight at Sahebkhali in Sundarbans, where they are being slaughtered; and

(b) if so, the details of such activities and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) There have been reports of clandestine smuggling of cattle through porous and everine border of Indo-Bangladesh. There are institutional mechanisms to take cognizance and legal action against criminals and anti-social elements on borders that are found involved in such activities. The Government has taken many preventive measures to stop the trans-border criminal activities including smuggling which, *inter-alia,* includes round the clock surveillance and patrolling on the borders and establishment of observation posts; construction of border fencing and flood lighting; introduction of modern and hi-tech surveillance equipments; up-gradation of intelligence set up; establishment of additional Border Out Posts along borders to reduce *inter-se* distance and co-ordination with the State Governments and the concerned intelligence agencies. Effective measures are taken to stop such activities.

Achievement of objective under NFSM

3240. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has succeeded in achieving objective of increasing production and productivity of rice, wheat and pulses on sustainable basis during the year 2008-09 under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Food Security Mission has been implemented since Rabi 2007 with an aim to obtain additional production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes. After the implementation of National Food Security Mission, the production of wheat has increased from 75.81 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 80.58 million tonnes in 2008-09 which is 4.77 million tonnes more than 2006-07. The total production of rice has increased from 93.35 million tonnes (2006-07) to 99.15 million tonnes (2008-09) which is 5.8 million tonnes more; whereas the total production of pulses has also increased from 14.20 million tonnes (2006-07) to 14.66 million tonnes (2008-09) which is nearly 0.5 million tonnes more.

(c) Question does not arise.